

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed August 24, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 - 21 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have added claim 21 and have amended claims 1 - 13. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Drawings

The Office Action indicates that corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office Action. In this regard, Applicants have attached hereto a replacement sheet of drawings to be entered for FIGs. 1 - 3. Applicants respectfully assert, therefore, that the objection to the drawings has been rendered moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 - 6, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McCarty* in view of *Pearson*. The Office Action also indicates that claims 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McCarty* in view of *Pearson* and further in view of *Hartsell*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Turning first to *McCarty*, that reference generally discloses a system and method for automatically and dynamically changing an address associated with a device disposed in a fibre channel environment. As disclosed in *McCarty*:

It is known that the FC-AL standard allows each FC device to negotiate for an Arbitrated Loop Physical Address (AL.sub.-- PA). Moreover, while participating on an Arbitrated Loop, the FC devices must log in to each other before commencing a loop transaction. If a device is not logged in to another device, it will discard any frames it receives from that device until it is logged

in. Since an initiator or driver must be able to manage the target device with which it is communicating, the initiator keeps track of an FC-specific identity triplet for that target device. This FC-specific ID triplet comprises a target's Node.sub.-- Name, its Port.sub.-- Name, and its AL.sub.-- PA. While the AL.sub.-- PA is dynamically assigned upon a loop reset, the Node.sub.-- Name and Port.sub.-- Name are formed from the device's unique World.sub.-- Wide.sub.-- Name.

When the devices come up onto an Arbitrated Loop upon a reset, they configure their AL.sub.-- PAs in one of three ways: via a Soft Address scheme, a Preferred Address scheme, or a Hard Address scheme. In a Soft Address scheme, the device does not care what AL.sub.-- PA it is assigned. Rather, it simply accepts the first free AL.sub.-- PA available.

In a Preferred Address scheme, the FC device would like to be assigned a particular AL.sub.-- PA. However, if a desired AL.sub.-- PA is unavailable for some reason, it will accept whichever AL.sub.-- PA that is free and available. *For example, after a device is assigned a specific AL.sub.-- PA for the first time upon "global" system initialization following the loading of the OS, that device will continue to request for that AL.sub.-- PA upon subsequent loop resets. However, once this device goes off-line from the Arbitrated Loop, it will lose its ability to "prefer" that AL.sub.-- PA and must resort to accepting the first free AL.sub.-- PA that is available.* (McCarty, Col. 7, line 43 – Col. 8, line 6). (Emphasis Added).

As disclosed above, assignment of addresses in accordance with McCarty is an automatic process and does not involve interaction of an operator. This is in direct contrast to the features/limitations recited in Applicants' claims as will be described in detail below.

Turning now to the pending claims, claim 1 recites:

1. A method for changing address information utilized by a fibre channel controller, the fibre channel controller being associated with a port of a network device, the method comprising:
facilitating utilization of current address settings of a fibre channel controller for the network device;
receiving, from an operator, information corresponding to desired address settings of the network device;
storing the information corresponding to the desired address settings of the network device; and
replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings of the network device.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In

particular, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2 – 6 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability. By way of example, claim 4 recites:

4. The method of claim 1, wherein replacing the current address settings comprises:
replacing the current address settings with the stored, desired address settings while the fibre channel controller is not connected to a fibre channel topology.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the additional features/limitations recited in claim 4. In this regard, it appears that claim 4 has been misinterpreted in the pending Office Action. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that:

McCarty teaches, replacing the current address setting with the stored, desired address settings [the device come up onto an Arbitrated Loop upon a reset, Col. 7, Line 57 – 58] **while the fibre channel controller is connected to a fabric topology** [Soft Address scheme, the device does not care what AL_PA it is assigned, Col. 7, Line 60 – 61]. (Office Action at page 5, No. 6). (Emphasis Added).

However, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 4 recites “while the fibre channel controller is **not connected** to a fibre channel topology.” (Emphasis Added). Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of at least this claim is improper and that claim 4 clearly is in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 7, that claim recites:

7. A method for changing address information utilized by a fibre channel controller, the method comprising:
- enabling current address information corresponding to an address of the fibre channel controller to be provided to an operator;*
 - enabling address setting information corresponding to address settings of the fibre channel controller to be provided to the operator;
 - enabling the operator to change the address settings of the fibre channel controller by providing information corresponding to the address settings to the fibre channel controller; and*
 - enabling the operator to change the current address of the fibre channel controller in response to the change of the address settings.*
- (Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 7 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 8 – 12 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 7, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability. By way of example, claim 10 recites:

10. The method of claim 7, wherein enabling the operator to change the current address of the fibre channel controller comprises:
- replacing the current address with the address settings while the fibre channel controller is not connected to a fibre channel topology.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the additional features/limitations recited in claim 10. In this regard, it appears that claim 10 has been misinterpreted in the pending Office Action.

Specifically, the Office Action indicates that:

McCarty teaches, replacing the current address setting with the stored, desired address settings [the device come up onto an Arbitrated Loop upon a reset, Col. 7, Line 57 – 58] **while the fibre channel controller is connected to a fabric topology** [Soft Address scheme, the device does not care what AL_PA it is assigned, Col. 7, Line 60 – 61]. (Office Action at page 5, No. 6). (Emphasis Added).

However, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 10 recites “replacing the current address with the address settings while the fibre channel controller is **not connected** to a fibre channel topology.” (Emphasis Added). Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of at least this claim is improper and that claim 10 clearly is in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 13, that claim recites:

13. A system for changing address information utilized by a network device, said system comprising:
a control system configured to receive information corresponding to desired address settings of the network device from an operator, store information corresponding to the desired address settings of the network device, **and replace the current address settings with the desired address settings of the network device** such that a communications port associated with the network device may be recognized by the network as being associated with the current address.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 13 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 14 – 20 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 13, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

By way of example, claim 18 recites:

18. The system of claim 13, wherein said fibre channel controller is configured to provide an operator with an indication that the current address settings are to be replaced with the address settings even though the fibre channel controller is not presently connected to a fibre channel topology.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the additional features/limitations recited in claim 18. In this regard, it appears that claim 18 has been misinterpreted in the pending Office Action. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that:

McCarty teaches, replacing the current address setting with the stored, desired address settings [the device come up onto an Arbitrated Loop upon a reset, Col. 7, Line 57 – 58] ***while the fibre channel controller is connected to a fabric topology*** [Soft Address scheme, the device does not care what AL_PA it is assigned, Col. 7, Line 60 – 61]. (Office Action at page 5, No. 6). (Emphasis Added).

However, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 18 recites that “the current address settings are to be replaced with the address settings even though the fibre channel controller is ***not presently connected*** to a fibre channel topology.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of at least this claim is improper and that claim 18 clearly is in condition for allowance.

With respect to claims 17 and 20, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance because they are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 13. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that *Pearson* and *Hartsell* do not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations that are mentioned above as lacking in *McCarty*. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 17 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, Applicants have added new claim 21 and respectfully assert that claim 21 is in condition for allowance. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 21 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of dependent claim 4 and independent claim 1, the allowability of which is described above.

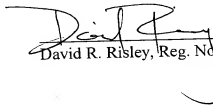
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

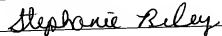
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 - 21 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 10/7/04.



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